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AEC Probes Security In U. S. Weapon Story

House Member Hits Arms Agency Aide For Disclosure of High Radiation Bomb

The Atomic Energy Commission is investigating whether security regulations have been violated in the disclosure Tuesday that the United States has developed a nuclear weapon with "enhanced radiation" which may approach the potency of the so-called neutron bomb.

Adrian Fisher, deputy director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, mentioned the "enhanced radiation" weapon in a March 14 letter to Senator Dodd, Democrat of Connecticut. The letter was released by the Senator Tuesday.

Republican Representative Jack Westland, of Washington, an influential member of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, says he "hit the ceiling" when he saw The Star's report on what he said had been a "top secret" weapon. He will demand Mr. Fisher's resignation, Mr. Westland said, if the Atomic Energy Commission confirms his belief that security regulations have been violated.

Foster Comments

The Star article, written by Reporter Earl H. Voss, was based on Mr. Fisher's letter and on Senator Dodd's reply.

William C. Foster, director of the disarmament agency, in-

the lead paragraph on the article was not "in any way justified by Mr. Fisher's letter."

"Mr. Voss," the director said, "obviously had this information from another source and used the letter from Mr. Fisher to Senator Dodd as a 'handle' for publishing it."

Question of Clearance

Mr. Foster said his deputy language in referring to the "enhanced radiation" weapon had been "made available for clearance to representatives of the Department of Defense, the AEC and CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) concerned with this area, and no objection was made to its publication."

The critical point, according to competent sources, is whether the Fisher letter was submitted for clearance of classification.

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tion publicly the reportedly "top secret" weapon.

The Fisher letter, it was reported, had been submitted to Leland J. Hayworth, atomic energy commissioner; Paul H. Nitze, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, and McGeorge Bundy, special assistant to the President for national security affairs, among others.

No objections were raised, according to informed sources.

The chairman of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee, Senator Pastore, Democrat of Rhode Island, is said to be "very concerned" about the case. The committee expects a report from security authorities in the Atomic Energy Commission, possibly today.

Representative Westland will ask the Attorney General's office to consider action of violators if it establishes that security has been compromised or laws have been violated.

Mr. Fisher's reference "enhanced radiation" occurred in an exchange of letters with Senator Voss about the United States proposal for a nuclear test ban treaty. The disarmament official mentioned the claim to support his claim that the United States has no need for the pure fusion so-called neutron bomb and therefore could enter a test ban treaty with the Soviet Union.

In his reply, Senator Voss said he had hesitated to raise the "enhanced radiation" issue.

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